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or progressive attempts and improvements, on the part of those who have gone before us, and without which the manufacture of these useful articles would not be so easy nor so swift as it is to-day.

You cannot raise your eyes nor take a single step without meeting everywhere with signs of benefits derived from our ancestors. The roads — for the most part they made them. The villages and towns in which we dwell and the monuments that adorn them — we owe to them. The magnificent civilization of which we are so proud, the imposing array of sciences so wonderfully perfected, the priceless treasures of literature and art — all are the slow and progressive achievements of past generations, and our only glory will be to add some little contribution to these, that we may in our turn transmit it to those who shall come after us.

In the meantime, we who are living to-day, descendants of the same ancestors, we form a generation of the great human family. All men are our brothers, and the earth is the common dwelling given to us to abide in for a little while, each in our turn. Why should we spend our fleeting existence in injuring or destroying each other? The goodness of the Author of all things has decreed that a thousand bonds should unite us. We have the same origin, the same interests. The same intelligence, in various degrees, shines in each one of us; and the human conscience speaks in the breast of all, showing that, alone amongst created beings, man lives to fulfil his duty and to receive in this earthly life an exact reward according to his deeds. This very fact proves clearly to all men the superiority of their nature and their destiny, and shadows forth the natural harmony that ought to prevail in all their social intercourse.

PRIZE ESSAYS.

Following the offer of prizes to college students made by the American Peace Society, comes one by another society. The following note which we are glad to insert gives the conditions of the competition:

The Peace Association of Friends in America, offer a prize of \$75 for the best essay, \$50 for the second best, and \$25 for the third best essay on the following topic: "War inconsistent with the teaching and spirit of Christ and hence unwise and unnecessary." The essay must be written by a student attending some college in the United States. It must contain not less than five thousand words nor more than eight thousand. It must be well written, on one side of the sheet of paper, or what would be better, copied with a type-writer, the writer retaining the original. They should be in the hands of the secretary, Daniel Hill, Richmond, Ind., by the first of September, 1894. No name or place should be attached to the essay, but the full name and address of the writer should be sent with the essay to the secretary, who will see that they get into the hands of the Judges without any clue as to who the writer is. So the judgment cannot be biased on any personal considerations. The Judges are: Augustine Jones, Friends' School, Providence, R. I.; James E. Rhoads, Bryn Mawr, Penn.; Mahalah Jay, Richmond, Ind.; Ellen C. Wright, Wilmington, Ohio; and Truman C. Kenworthy, Des Moines, Iowa. All essays submitted become the property of the Association.

THE MAGAZINES AND PAPERS.

FARM, FIELD AND FIRESIDE.

The *Farm, Field and Fireside*, of Chicago, one of the best agricultural journals of the country, after quoting the statistics of the standing armies in Europe given by Mr. Archibald Forbes in a recent number of the *North American Review*, makes the following sensible comments:

"What an enormous cost! almost any one will agree. Yes, but the figures should be viewed in different ways in order to take in their full meaning. To be sure, there is the money that goes to pay the wages of these men in the country, and to pay for these horses and guns, but this is not all. It is a waste and worse than waste, but it is only the beginning of the economic loss. These men — 10,413,905 in all — are subtracted from all productive occupations. Compute what each could earn and what each could add to the produced wealth of the country, and you begin to better comprehend the sum total of loss by their enlistment in the army.

"Then think of the homes prevented by the military system. The home is the very keystone of the social arch. The greater part of these soldiers can make no proper homes. The legitimate growth of population is thus hindered. All the industries that cluster about homes in society are thus more or less checked.

"The loss intellectually and morally is probably even more deplorable. Not only habits of useful industry are lost or never formed, but habits of quiet thoughtfulness, of literary pursuits, of scientific investigation, of humane and philanthropic effort — all these come in to swell the aggregate of the cost to society and to mankind from these enormous military establishments.

"America, at the least, should set the example of reducing them to the minimum. Every taxpayer is directly interested in this question."

BALTIMORE NEWS.

After the big gun test at Indian Head, the *Baltimore News*, after giving its hearty approval to the development of our navy and the manufacture of these big guns, has a little paragraph of consolation for the Peace Societies:

"The Peace Society, however, has reason to be encouraged; for all this is distinctly in the direction of the abolishment of war. The cost of carrying it on must eventually be too great; the weapons too big, the machinery too gigantic and cumbersome. In time civilized mankind will conclude that it is more sensible to substitute for costly armies and navies the more inexpensive courts of arbitration; argument will take the place of force and eminent lawyers figure above illustrious admirals and generals.

If the *News* had been standing where the 1100 pound projectile, propelled by 500 pounds of powder, struck, or had even been compelled to pay the bills for the two test shots, it would probably have thought the time fully come to refer its case to the "eminent lawyers."

THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL.

Does the *Providence Journal* really believe that it does absolutely no good to preach a great idea? It seems to say so in the paragraph given below, in which the utter-

ance of an important truth is made the occasion of saying what few sensible people will endorse. If the *Journal* were at all familiar with what the Peace Societies have done in Europe in the last twenty-five years, it would open its eyes and beg pardon. It says:

"The closer the business interests of nations are bound together the greater is the natural influence making for peace between them. War becomes too costly then, aside from the mere expenditure of blood and money in waging it. Every new commercial treaty between European nations, and the movement toward such treaties is now quite general all over the continent, erects a new safeguard against warfare. Commerce is the great peacemaker. It is commerce more than religion or culture which has brought mankind out of the state of barbarism of which war is a relic; and it is to commerce, in proportion as it approaches to world-wide freedom, that we must look more than to anything else to bring us to that era of swords beaten into ploughshares which the Universal Peace Societies very properly extol, but which they very foolishly think they can hasten by preaching on its advantages."

MANCHESTER GUARDIAN.

"If once a treaty of arbitration were made between this country and the United States it is certain that its existence and operation would have an admirable effect in making men in all countries examine their own theories — mostly held unconsciously — of international relations. It is high time. The Government debts of the world, which amounted to 4000 millions in 1870, are now more than 6000 millions, and most of the liability is, directly or indirectly, due to the practice of war. In the United Kingdom, as Sir John Lubbock has said, 'one-third of the national income is spent in preparation for future wars, one-third in paying for past wars, and only one-third on the government of the country.' And in England the burden is a mere fleabite as compared with the loads laid on a people like the Italians. The abolition of this plague of militarism can be secured only by a revolution in men's habit of mind. It is our habit to consider war as something like an ordinance of nature. Precisely the same thing was habitually thought about slavery. The most hopeful recent signs of a better state of opinion are the anti-militarist resolutions passed by the representatives of Continental workmen at their various international congresses and this exchange of sentiments between the two chief nations speaking English. The agitation both in the British and American Parliaments and in the French and German trade unions must be unceasingly kept up until the truth of Herbert Spencer's dictum that 'the possibility of a superior social state, in politics, as in everything else, depends on the disappearance of war' is recognized in a network of international arrangements for arbitration."

THE AMERICAN MACHINIST.

Under the title of "The Mechanical Value of War," "Bell Crank" in the *American Machinist* for April 5th replies to an article with the same title in a previous number of the same paper by Mr. Forbes. He says:

"The Peace Congress was a good thing, and if some fools were permitted to speak there, it should not be surprising, for they are to be found everywhere, even mechanical fools being discovered occasionally. The object

of the Peace Congress was to promote the idea that the human race would be better and happier if men would refrain from killing each other by the thousands as they have often done in past times.

"Surely no one should be classed as a fool for advocating so reasonable a thing as that, although fire-arm manufacturers and others similarly interested may think so."

He admits in some sentences whose irony is poorly concealed, that war and war implements, along with slavery, the inquisition, witchcraft, avarice, and all kinds of crime, have been factors in the promotion of civilization, and then proceeds:

"I think no one would undertake to prove that the progress of mechanic arts would be stopped if we were to cease making war materials and substitute other manufactures.

"That many men make their living by working on war materials is not a sufficient reason for continuing it, for it must always be considered if something else can be substituted that will be of more benefit to man.

"Gunpowder is one of the manufactures which I am sure we would be willing to replace with something not so dangerous and of more direct benefit.

"Mr. Forbes says, 'It is to-day demanded that we kill our enemies with arms which are as finely finished as a watch, and in this demand can be shown work for hundreds who, in executing it, obtain support for long years, while the misery our peace friends see in war is comparatively of short duration.'

"This is a remarkable method of reasoning, but it will apply with equal force or lack of force to many other things. The great Chicago fire was a good thing, for the misery it caused was of short duration, while it gave employment to hundreds for many years in rebuilding the city. The Johnstown flood was very good for it gave employment to many rebuilding the town, while the misery it caused was of short duration.

"Thousands of men gain a living making intoxicating liquors, the drinking of which impairs mind and body and causes much misery, but mankind would be in much better condition if these men were employed making books for people to read."

After alluding to the World's Fair Memorial for Arbitration and the large number of eminent names attached to it he declares that,

"This is a good list of the fools who believe in the object that the Peace Congress was organized to promote.

"And why all this effort to promote such an idea? Simply because all thoughtful students of man see plainly the overpowering burden which war and preparation for war imposes on civilization.

"We mechanics are thought to be well up in the front ranks of progress, and if we are to keep our place there we must use our ability and knowledge to promote the humane and beneficent principles of peace instead of the savagery of war."

WASHINGTON NEWS.

A PROMISE OF PEACE.

Is Europe about to behold the spectacle of swords being beaten into ploughshares and spears into pruning hooks? It almost looks that way when right upon the heels of the conclusion of the Russo-German treaty of

commerce comes the news that a like treaty has been practically agreed upon between Russia and Austro-Hungary. Will the twentieth century see the political equilibrium of Europe maintained by commercial treaty clauses and stipulations instead of breach-loading rifles and heavy artillery?

At first glance one can hardly grasp the possibility of such a condition of things. But a little reflection will tend to the conviction that European nations are arriving at the conclusion that their individual prosperity and their collective immunity from distressing and costly wars can best be secured by international combinations of a peaceful and mutually profitable character. Nor is it improbable that the rulers are beginning to realize—in an undefined, barely tangible sort of way, perhaps—the pressure from below of something more satisfactory to their peoples than the illusive glory and limited security to be achieved on battle-fields.

If a Russo-Austro-Hungarian commercial treaty becomes an accomplished fact it gives, taken in connection with the already ratified Russo-German treaty, a fairly safe guarantee of peace. In the event of such a treaty, the ever-threatening spark of trouble in the Danube principalities would probably be completely extinguished and that *enfant terrible* of European politics withdrawn from view, for in this locality is now the constant danger of a clash between Austria and Russia. If the treaty in question is concluded, the strategic interests that have made those principalities the seat of incessant hostile intrigues on the part of Russia will probably be dominated and overruled by the more important commercial interests involved in the maintenance or disruption of such a convention. With Russia, Germany and Austria determined to preserve the peace of Europe, little, if any, danger is to be apprehended from any other quarter.

ELMIRA (N. Y.) GAZETTE.

"The *Philadelphia Times* sees in recent tendencies exhibited by Emperor William signs of cheer. The importance that William has attached to the commercial treaty with Russia is in itself a recognition that in these days the interests of commerce are stronger than merely military interests, and that freedom of intercourse is a truer bond of peace than standing armies.

"He has already made plain to the world the military strength of his Empire and his own readiness to fight upon occasion. Having done this, he is the better able to throw his influence, as he seems now to be doing, on the side of peace and the reduction of military expenditure. Germany is indeed the only power from which the movement for disarmament can come. She occupies the central place and the foremost place. No one could attribute such a movement on her part to timidity. Austria and Italy can both be counted upon to follow her lead, and she stands between Russia and France, now upon terms of friendship. Germany cannot propose disarmament directly to France, but if Russia will agree, France may be brought to the agreement also.

"'Every nation in Europe,' says the *Times*, 'recognizes the truth that the burden of the military establishments has become intolerable, and there is not one of them that would not gladly reduce its offensive and defensive equipment if it could be sure that its neighbors would do likewise. The power that can lead in this movement would be more than ever the dominant power, and such an ambition is worthy of the Emperor of Germany.'"

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